

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
WADE BROCK FOR WINNING THE
GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFT-
BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Wade Brock showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Wade Brock was a supportive coach; and

Whereas, Wade Brock always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Wade Brock on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF WONDER LAKE

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Wonder Lake, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Wonder Lake is celebrating its 35 year anniversary. Located in McHenry County, Wonder Lake takes its name from the largest private man-made lake in the state of Illinois. In the 1850s, the area of was served by the Harsh School, a one room log building serving about a dozen farmhouses. It was not until 1974 that Wonder Lake was incorporated as residents of the Sunrise Ridge community came together to form a village.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Wonder Lake is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Wonder Lake for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Wonder Lake for reaching their 35th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING DONNA COOK FREEMAN
OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Rep. MIKE THOMPSON to honor the memory of Donna Cook Freeman of Bodega Bay in my district, an energetic community activist whose petite frame exuded a feisty kind of determination combined with warmth and humor that earned friends, political power and a long list of accomplishments.

Donna came to Bodega Bay a half century ago as a young, poor and pregnant fisherman's wife with two small children in tow. She left Bodega Bay and this earthly plain on October 30, 2009 after two weeks of farewell visits from at least 150 friends. She was 72.

Donna Cook Freeman became involved in local politics in the early 60s in one of the earliest environmental battles of the modern era, the fight over the planned construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. Donna and several other "ordinary" townspeople and their friends took on the giant utility, and ultimately won after they exposed the danger of building the plant directly on the San Andreas Fault.

Remaining active in coastal issues, she served on the California Coastal Commission's advisory board for the county's coastal plan. She campaigned for a local assessment to provide paramedics for the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District. Later she served three terms as a director of the Fire District. She was also a founder of the Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, and served as president and a director of the Bodega Bay Chamber of Commerce, and for a decade she served on the board of the Sonoma County Fair. She successfully fought for new port facilities for commercial and recreational fishermen that became Spud Point Marina.

She also created a special place in a scrub filled ravine at the foot of Bodega Head. She filled it with cool ferns, waving trees, rippling ponds, narrow foot bridges and a gazebo she salvaged from the set of Alfred Hitchcock's Bodega Bay-based classic film, "The Birds." She called this sheltered refuge "Compass Rose Garden," named both for the center of a compass and her mother. She raised her family in a cottage in the garden, and turned its verdant grounds into a place for weddings, family events, community celebrations and political fund raisers that both advertised and expanded her political influence.

She served on the Democratic State Central Committee, and her endorsement was gold to numerous political candidates courting west Sonoma County votes. She served a vital role in ushering in progressive politics to the county when she successfully managed the campaign of former Sonoma County Supervisor Ernie Carpenter.

Last month she was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer and as her life ebbed away, she made plans for a final celebration at Compass Rose Garden. It was not to be. Yet she leaves a legacy of progress, a legion of friends and a loving family that includes her husband, Clarence Freeman, her two daughters Melinda McLees and Melissa Freeman; three sons, Scott Freeman, Kevin Freeman and Steve Freeman; and their families which include seven grandchildren; as well as her brother James Cook and a sister Dorothy Cook Hewett, and their families.

Madam Speaker, Donna Cook Freeman brought creativity, vibrancy and determination to every endeavor she took on. She led by her powers of persuasion and her personal magnetism. She was born in the Depression, but was guided through her life by her joyous sense of possibility. When the boats are blessed at the next Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, we will think of her and recall a spirit that could rise above the waves.

HONORING THE SONOMA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has long served as a spirited defender of the Valley's interests, by encouraging new industry, organizing beautification projects and managing flood control efforts.

The Chamber began the evening of April 10, 1909, when 32 businessmen convened over dinner to discuss how they could stimulate commerce for the benefit of local merchants and professionals.

Membership quickly grew to 100 and the Chamber began their first initiatives, like publishing marketing material and establishing committees to begin tackling an ambitious agenda. In the early years, the Chamber called for transportation improvements and successfully lobbied Congress to protect a local federal facility from closure.

During the Great Depression, the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in addressing needs of a paralyzed business community. To generate renewed interest in the organization, the Chamber hosted an event benefiting street and driveway improvements.

In the subsequent years, the Chamber pioneered many efforts, including the creation of a commuter bus service to San Francisco, the endorsement of a municipal water system, support for State Parks and advocacy for underground utility and telephone lines. Notably, the Chamber raised local matching funds for a job stimulus program that was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chamber was designated as a farm labor office tasked with steering workers to local farmers. In the years following the war, the Chamber focused on supporting an adequate sewage system, the introduction of local hospital and the adoption of a zoning plan.

By mid-century, the Chamber hosted an industrial conference, boldly escalating efforts to bring new industry to the Valley.

Today the Chamber has expanded its membership to more than 700 leaders who continue to help ensure a thriving economy through advocacy, promotion, networking, education and services.

Operating under the mantra that "Strong businesses make strong communities", the Chamber hosts events, publishes a business magazine and offers comprehensive business, community and visitor resources. The Chamber also leads recognition efforts, honoring the business of the year and green businesses.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. In years to come, this organization will remain an integral and powerful force that continues to enrich the business community for the benefit of all Sonoma Valley residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor during the week of Monday, December 7, 2009, to Friday, December 11, 2009.

For Tuesday, December 8, 2009, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 931, on motion to instruct conferees regarding H.R. 3288; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 932, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to Con. Res. 199; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 933, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 206; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 934, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 940; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 935, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 845; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 936, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 2278; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 937, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 915; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 938, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 907.

For Wednesday, December 9, 2009, had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 939, on ordering the previous question to provide for consideration of H.R. 4213; "no" on rollcall vote No. 940, on agreeing to H. Res. 955; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 941, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3951; "no" on rollcall vote No. 942, on motion to table appeal of the ruling of the chair regarding H.R. 4213; "no" on rollcall vote No. 943, on passage of H.R. 4213; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 944, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3603; "no" on rollcall vote No. 945, on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 956; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 946, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 86.

For Thursday, December 10, 2009, had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 947, on ordering the previous question to provide for consideration of the Conference Report to H.R. 3288; "no" on rollcall vote No. 948, on agreeing to H. Res. 961, which provides for consideration of the Conference Report to H.R. 3288; "no" on rollcall vote No. 949, on agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 3288; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 950, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4017; "no" on rollcall vote No. 951, on agreeing to H. Res. 962; "no" on rollcall vote No. 952, on agreeing to H. Res. 964, which provides for consideration of H.R. 4173; "no" on rollcall vote No. 953, on agreeing to the Frank amendment No. 1 to H.R. 4173; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 954, on agreeing to the Sessions amendment to H.R. 4173; "no" on rollcall vote No. 955, on agreeing to the Lynch amendment to H.R. 4173; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 956, on agreeing to the Murphy (NY) amendment to H.R. 4173; "no" on rollcall vote No. 957, on agreeing to the Frank (MA) amendment to H.R. 4173; "no" on rollcall vote No. 958, on agreeing to the Stupak amendment to H.R. 4173; "no" on rollcall vote No. 959, on agreeing to the Stupak amendment to H.R. 4173.

For the morning of Friday, December 11, 2009, had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 960, on agreeing to the Kanjorski amendment to H.R. 4173; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 961, on agreeing to the McCarthy (CA) amendment to H.R. 4173; "no" on rollcall vote No. 962, on agreeing to the Peters amendment to H.R. 4173.

PROCLAMATION ISSUED TO BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit this proclamation which I issued to Beulah Baptist Church.

Whereas, the Beulah Baptist Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past 113 years; and

Whereas, Pastor Jerry D. Black and the members of the Beulah Baptist Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our county; and

Whereas, the Beulah Baptist Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our District; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past 113 years by preaching the gospel, singing the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Beulah has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County and the world their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Beulah Baptist Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 113th Anniversary of their founding:

Now Therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 22, 2009 as Beulah Baptist Church Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of November, 2009.

ANDREA LEWIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Andrea Lewis. A talented journalist, radio news anchor and a true renaissance woman, Ms. Lewis had an uncanny ability to broach any subject with her impressive knowledge, affability and confidence. Ms. Lewis passed away Sunday, November 15, 2009 at the age of 52.

Andrea Lewis, a native of Detroit, Michigan, earned her B.A. from Eastern Michigan University, where she studied music, English literature, and art history. After moving to the Bay Area in 1983, she became an editor for Plexus: West Coast Women's Press, and in the late 1980s, she worked as a research editor for Mother Jones magazine. After gaining further publishing experience as an editorial assistant at Harper Collins Publishers in San Francisco and senior editor at Third Force Magazine in the early 90s, Ms. Lewis joined Pacific News Service as an associate editor.

Ms. Lewis, known for her rich, resonant voice, made an effortless transition to radio in 1999, joining the KPFA Morning Show as co-host of the two-hour weekday public affairs program. Though the warm tone and timbre of Andrea's voice was often praised, she is most remembered for voicing sound and well-researched opinions.

A tireless advocate and champion for civil rights, Ms. Lewis was particularly interested in combating sexism, racism and homophobia. Ms. Lewis acquired a following throughout her career, and was especially admired for her thoughtful and compassionate equanimity when discussing difficult subjects on or off the air.

More recently, Ms. Lewis took a year off to complete a 2008 Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University. She returned as evening news co-anchor and host of a two-hour Sunday morning interview and call-in program that she dubbed "Sunday Sedition." She was also a fellow in the Society of Professional Journalists Diversity Leadership Program from 2006 to 2007.

Among Ms. Lewis' many accolades were The National Federation of Community Broadcasters' Golden Reel award in 2002, the California Teachers Association's John Swett Award for Media Excellence in 2004, and many well-received published articles. Ms. Lewis was a regular contributor to Madison, Wisconsin's Progressive Magazine, and I am honored to hear that she was proud to have had a quotation from our 2005 interview included in the Progressive's 100th anniversary edition in April.

Ms. Lewis exercised a life-long passion for music as both a member of her university's choral group, which toured Europe, and for the last 20 years, as a talented alto in the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Both Ms. Lewis and her family were so proud when the chorus

had the honor of performing at Carnegie Hall. She was also an avid reader, a sports fan and a lifelong golfer. She will be remembered by family, friends and colleagues for her laughter, her insight, her honesty and her vibrant spirit.

This evening, we salute and honor a great human being, Ms. Andrea Lewis. Our community is indebted to her life's contribution in countless ways. We extend our deepest condolences to Ms. Lewis's family and to all who were dear to her. May her soul rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on December 14th. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

H. Res. 779—Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, roll No. 969—"yea."

H. Res. 942—Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, roll No. 970—"yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 969, Runaway Prevention Month, rollcall No. 970, Real Salt Lake Soccer Club, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES H. AND ELIZABETH GARBUTT SHAW

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th wedding anniversary of two American patriots residing in my District. Their deep dedication to this country founded in the commitment to each other is a testament to the strong values that have made this country and its people the model for the world to emulate.

James Henry Shaw married Elizabeth Garbutt on December 14, 1939 in Valdosta, GA. James is a former U.S. Marine who stormed the beaches of Yellow Beach with the First Marine Division on April 1, 1945 and fought long and hard in the entire 82-day campaign that saw over 50,000 American casualties including over 12,000 dead or missing. James was one of those casualties sustaining shrapnel wounds in his side earning him the Purple Heart. Once the island was secure, James and his fellow Marines began training exercises preparing to invade the main Islands

of Japan on their push to Tokyo until the Japanese surrendered on August 15, 1945. He was then part of the occupying U.S. forces in China before returning home in 1946. Elizabeth remained back on the home front contributing to the vital efforts supporting our troops abroad. She raised two children and is now the proud matriarch of a family that has grown into 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Her son was a career Air Force enlisted man with his children all serving proudly in the officer and enlisted ranks of the United States Air Force. Her daughter had two sons that attended the United States Naval Academy and are currently active duty officers in the United States Navy. Besides being a father and grandfather, James has been a career railroad freight man moving to trucking freight later in his life and retiring. James and Elizabeth are now in their 9th decade, still living unassisted, and until recently, served tirelessly and unselfishly as volunteers at their local polling precinct assisting others to vote.

This achievement allows for reflection on what it means to remain in a committed and loving relationship dedicated to the values and ideals that help shape and foster the citizens of this great country. On behalf of my colleagues, and myself, I extend to James and Elizabeth Shaw my gratitude, deep appreciation, and continued health for many more years to come. Thank you both for your service and commitment to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I missed 2 votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 969, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to H. Res. 779, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 970, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 942, I would have voted "yea."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE McALLEN MONITOR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the McAllen Monitor, which has served as a vital news source for the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas and our communities.

This newspaper has accomplished a "century of service" to our community over the years.

From copy boys in the past, to computers in the present, the Monitor has kept an unprecedented pulse on south Texas.

They've generated news and reports of historic people, legends, events, tragedies and accomplishments, that have served to shape the story of the Rio Grande Valley.

The first issue was released on December 11, 1909.

The Monitor was founded in a small facility at the corner of Beaumont and Broadway in McAllen, Texas.

It was "humble beginnings" for our neighborhood paper.

Now the Monitor has a 100,000 square foot building, equipped with modern equipment and journalists of all backgrounds.

Over the past 100 years, the Monitor has undergone change, along with changes in news on a daily basis.

The paper was even renamed four times. But the spirit of its content, unchanged through all the years.

For a century now, the Monitor has provided a steady flow of information as a trusted news source throughout the region.

The McAllen Monitor has covered groundbreaking news items that have shaped the Nation, State, and community.

From 1909 to 2009, the newspaper has covered landmark events including:

"Black Tuesday" when the Nation fell into the Great Depression;

1933 when a hurricane hit Brownsville to McAllen;

and in August 1957, a Russian spy was taken into custody in McAllen.

In 1968, Hispanics participated in a walkout at Ecouch-Elsa High School because of unjust treatment in the school.

Three years later, Cesar Chavez visited the Valley followed by the great late Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy who visited the Valley in October 1980.

These are landmark, local civil rights movements in our community.

For all these events in history, the Monitor was there.

That's why they are our trusted news source in the Rio Grande Valley, McAllen and in south Texas.

They are our local newspaper who understands the spirit of our City and the values of our People.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 100th anniversary of the McAllen Monitor newspaper.

The Monitor is celebrating 100 years of service, continuing its mission for the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas.

A century of news for our community, so I commend and congratulate the Monitor with the greatest gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF MUNDELEIN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mundelein, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

Mundelein is celebrating its 100th anniversary. As early as 1650, the Potawatomi Indians were trading with French fur traders in the area now known as Mundelein. Nearly two centuries later, a group of English immigrants came to the area and named their new community "Mechanics Grove". In 1921, Cardinal George Mundelein of Chicago bought property

in the village to construct St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary. The village changed its name again in 1924 in recognition of Cardinal Mundelein's success with the new seminary. Today, Mundelein has grown to a residential community of over 30,000 residents.

Madam Speaker, the village of Mundelein is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of village of Mundelein for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Mundelein for reaching their 100th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I participated in an official trip to the Middle East to visit troops and commanders on the ground. As a result, I missed two votes on Monday, December 14, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 969 and 970.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DEBORAH K. CRAWFORD

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Deborah K. Crawford of Jacksonville, Florida who has dedicated over 35 years of her professional career towards the protection of individual rights and reducing the administrative burden on taxpayers.

Deborah Crawford began her career as a Collection Representative for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) working in Jacksonville, FL representing many low-income individuals who needed help accessing benefits that they may have been entitled to under the law.

Deborah later moved onto the Problem Resolution Program (PRP), as a collection technician. Her positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile was extremely beneficial to the citizens of North Florida which earned her the selection as the Congressional Liaison in the PRP.

When the PRP was displaced by the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) Deborah continued on in her role as the Congressional Liaison. TAS is an independent organization within the IRS whose employees assist taxpayers who are experiencing economic hardships, who are seeking help in resolving problems with the IRS, or who believe that an IRS system or procedure is not working as it should.

Deborah also works with the Low Income Taxpayer Clinics to assure that the clinics operate within the guidelines and to provide representation to low income taxpayers with tax matters before the Internal Revenue Service.

Deborah continues her service to North Florida during her personal time with activities

that include volunteer work with the animal shelter, zoo, and church. I commend and congratulate the impressive career history of Deborah K. Crawford and her devoted service to the taxpayers of North Florida.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009.

Over the past year, we became aware of many financial practices which were abusive and reckless. We're putting an end to those practices and making "too big to fail" a thing of the past. Americans will no longer be responsible for the bad business calculations and irresponsible behavior that almost brought down our entire economic system. This bill effectively ends the notion of a government guarantee by allowing large, systemically risky institutions to fail at their own expense and in a way that doesn't jeopardize the whole U.S. financial system.

The legislation holds Wall Street accountable through increased transparency and regulation of risky practices. A new systemic risk regulator will monitor financial activity across the whole sector to identify risks and irresponsible behavior and prevent them from becoming a problem for individual investors and the entire economy. The bill also establishes an orderly process for dismantling large, failing companies—at their own expense, and requires that stockholders and executives take a financial hit if risky deals fall through, ensuring an end to taxpayer funded bailouts.

This bill effectively reforms our financial system without unduly restricting appropriate risk-taking. This is pro-business, anti-bailout legislation that aims to address the flaws in the current system in a targeted manner to minimize the burden on those who did not cause the crisis, like Community Banks and Credit Unions—most of whom will be exempt from additional oversight by the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, CFPA.

We are addressing the fractured oversight that exists in our current system. In creating a Consumer Financial Protection Agency, we will establish a baseline for consumer financial protection and target the appropriate financial institutions. If we are willing to demand that products used by our children are reviewed for safety, we should demand appropriate oversight for the financial products we use to pay for their college. More broadly, the CFPA will ensure that all consumers have a watchdog to protect them against financial institutions engaging in abusive or deceptive practices.

This bill focuses on reforming the system so that we maximize the good and minimize the harm, and I am proud to support it.

JASON HODGE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mr. Jason Hodge. A devoted son, brother, nephew, cousin, friend and colleague, Jason Hodge was taken from us too soon, on December 6, 2009. Today, let us find comfort in the joy he inspired and his wonderful spirit. He was a bright, confident, ambitious and kind man, who will be deeply missed.

After graduating from Skyline High School in 1992, Jason Hodge was accepted to the University of California, Berkeley. He soon learned how to overcome obstacles, however, when the local college funding program meant to help pay for his UC Berkeley tuition ran out of money. Although this was a terrible shock to Jason, he decided to utilize ingenuity and diligence to create a solution.

After attending Merritt College for two years, Jason was awarded a tuition scholarship from the Rotary Club of Oakland, enabling him to transfer to UC Berkeley as a junior. At this time, in addition to his studies and community involvement, Jason became the youngest person to ever win a seat on the Oakland School Board—he was only 21 years old.

Jason was elected to the School Board in 1996, after he offered fresh ideas and a student perspective in bringing change to local education programs. Although he had suffered disappointment as a result of the failed "Promise" college funding program, he wanted to do his best to provide opportunity and change for a new generation of Oakland students. He helped administer programs to protect children as they walked to and from school, and to provide transit passes for a safer commute. Jason was one of the first voices to decry the state's lack of funding for local public education, a problem which our community faces in even greater severity today.

Jason served two terms, and decided not to run for re-election to the board after the state took control of the district due to local financial troubles. For the last several years he served as the Vallejo City Unified School District spokesman, also serving as special assistant to Vallejo's superintendent and public information officer.

Jason will be remembered as a warm, compassionate person who was very close to his family. In his free time, he made sure to spend time with the people he loved, and also recently fulfilled a lifelong dream of traveling cross-country by train. He leaves behind his mother, father, three siblings, extended family and many loving friends. Although these days are difficult, I pray that our fond memories of Jason will bring us comfort and strength as we celebrate his life.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, Mr. Jason Hodge. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. May his soul rest in peace.

SUPPORT FOR THE "LET WALL STREET PAY FOR THE RESTORATION OF MAIN STREET ACT" INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, years of deregulation and exorbitant risk-taking in the financial markets contributed to the financial turmoil we're in today. Last week, the House passed a bill that would bring common sense reforms on Wall Street so that taxpayers would never again be on the hook for bailing out firms and banks for their risky, irresponsible behavior.

Congress must now pass legislation that puts people back to work. Through TARP, the federal government loaned billions of taxpayer dollars to Wall Street. It's time for Wall Street to help create jobs on Main Street.

This can happen in two ways: by using some of the available TARP funds and by imposing a modest Wall Street transaction tax on certain securities trades. This latter proposal could raise up to \$150 billion a year, part of which could go toward infrastructure investment and partly to debt reduction.

I ask my colleagues to support these proposals so that we can curb speculation and create jobs that will put Americans back to work again.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TO FIND FUGITIVES

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud a new Public Safety Partnership launched in my home state of Florida during this holiday season. This unique effort, entitled "12 Days of Fugitives," is an innovative public outreach plan with the end goal of helping the state and local law enforcement apprehend 12 of Florida's oldest and most violent prison escapees.

The Florida Department of Corrections and Florida Department of Law Enforcement are working with the U.S. Marshals Service, local law enforcement, and the media on this new initiative. Specifically, members of the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association are donating space on digital billboards to display a tip line telephone number together with pictures of the fugitives. In addition, Florida newspapers have committed to feature the fugitives online and in print.

The idea is to empower the public to come forward with information about the whereabouts of these escapees. The most recent escape occurred in 2000; others have been on the run for decades.

Florida has consistently been a pioneer in these types of public safety partnerships. From the beginning, the outdoor advertising

industry was part of the AMBER Alert system in Florida. Now, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children posts AMBER Alerts on digital billboards across the country.

Madam Speaker, protecting our society from violent crime is extremely important, and often overlooked during this holiday time. This intensive public outreach in the state gives hope to the families and friends of the victims of crime that the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice. I commend the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and the media for working together to make Florida a safer place to live, work, and visit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 14, 2009, rollcall vote 969, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended—H. Res. 779, Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 970, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 942, Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup—I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the two rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately, I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 969 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 779—Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 970 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 942—Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009, I was un-

avoidably unable to cast my votes for rollcall No. 969 and rollcall No. 970. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4284, a bill that would increase our trade deficit, compromise our labor laws, and delay a much-needed reform to our nation's trade policy.

Since the last extension, in October 2008, Congress has still not adequately addressed the fundamental problems in relation to agriculture and labor practices in this trade preference agreement.

With the on-going debate surrounding the Colombia Free Trade Agreement and the South Korea Free Trade Agreement, and the sharp economic recession, it would be irresponsible to simply extend these preferences without thorough discussions on the effects of our trade policy on American jobs.

Originally passed in 1991, the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) was designed to develop economic alternatives to narcotics production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

However, ATPA has failed to reduce cocaine production and it has harmed American farmers.

As a result of the ATPA, the U.S. had a \$7 billion trade deficit with the four ATPA countries in 2008.

Overall, the U.S. trade deficit has grown to more than \$738 billion and trade policies have cost America 3.2 million manufacturing jobs over the past 10 years.

Because both the Bush and Obama administrations deemed that Bolivia failed to meet eligibility criteria, H.R. 4284 would extend trade preferences only with Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Before extending the Andean Trade Preferences Act for a fourth time, Congress should take a closer look at damage it has done to American farmers and how it has failed to reduce illegal drug production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Among the great economic challenges our nation faces is creating new trade and globalization policies that serve America's workers, consumers, farmers, and firms.

The Obama administration and Congress have an opportunity to rewrite our trade policy and to create a trade framework that supports American jobs.

Let's seize this opportunity to create a new framework for trade agreements.

New trade agreements must meet basic standards to protect labor rights, environmental standards, food safety regulations, financial regulations, and taxation transparency.

Most importantly, new trade agreements must protect American workers first.

I urge you to vote against H.R. 4284 when it comes to the House floor today so that we can focus on reforming America's trade laws.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 969 and 970, I would have voted "yes." I was absent because I joined a congressional delegation inspecting military facilities in Iraq, which did not return until the following morning. Hence, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXTENDING ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCES

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I am a strong and long-time supporter of the Andean Trade Preferences Act, ATPA, and I support extending this vital program. Fostering economic development and the rule of law in the Andean region is essential to our national security, foreign policy and economic interests. H.R. 4284 extends ATPA benefits for Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador until December 31, 2010.

I believe there are two essential components to making ATPA work as effectively as possible. First, there must be continuity, so that American businesses and workers can get the greatest benefit. The U.S. jobs that are supported by engaging in the Andean region through ATPA require a sound investment environment, which in turn demands certainty that the program will be maintained. Taking action to extend ATPA for an additional year beyond December 31, 2009, is a positive step. However, demonstrating a stronger commitment to continuity by extending the program for at least 2 years would improve the program's effectiveness and provide greater opportunity for job creation here in the U.S.

Second, there must be accountability. While two of the three current participant countries—Colombia and Peru—have made enormous strides in implementing economic reforms, solidifying the rule of law and engaging as strong partners with the U.S., Ecuador has moved backwards in many regards. Most troubling has been the failure to strengthen the rule of law, as this is the bedrock upon which all economic and political reforms are built. While I believe that engagement through trade is the best way to encourage progress, we must take steps to ensure that there is accountability along the way. Unfortunately, H.R. 4284 removes measures currently in place to conduct a special review of Ecuador's progress. This action diminishes the incentives for Ecuador to play by the rules. It also sends the message to our partners that those who take steps backwards will get the same treatment as those who make enormous forward progress. This lack of accountability diminishes the effectiveness of both the carrot and the stick.

As we consider long-term proposals for our trade preferences programs, including ATPA, I believe that we must ensure there is both greater continuity and greater accountability. Continued failure to do so will only limit our

ability to achieve the national security, foreign policy and economic objectives these programs are designed to achieve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, due to weather-related flight cancellations that delayed my return to Washington until this morning, I was absent from the House Floor during Monday's two rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 779 and H. Res. 942.

CALLING ON THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ITS PROMISE AND UPHOLD ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Iraqi authorities not to forcibly remove Camp Ashraf residents from the home where they have lived for over twenty years. International human rights groups such as Amnesty International have warned that forcibly relocating the Camp Ashraf residents will put the Iranian opposition group "at risk of arbitrary arrest, torture or other forms of ill-treatment, and unlawful killing."

On July 29 of this year, I spoke out against the brutal attack that began on July 28 carried out by Iraqi security forces who were acting at the behest of the Iranian regime. The Iraqi security forces rolled over unarmed Camp Ashraf residents with tanks and beat them with sticks, killing at least nine residents and injuring many more. An injustice of this magnitude must not happen again.

If the Iraqi government forcibly moves these residents from their Camp Ashraf home, it will be breaking its promise to the United States and violating its obligations under international law. When these Iranian exiles voluntarily surrendered their weapons to U.S. forces in 2003, they did so in exchange for a promise that the U.S. would protect them. When the United States withdrew from the Camp Ashraf region, the United States and Iraq signed an agreement that the Iraqi government would continue to ensure their safety. Furthermore, Camp Ashraf residents are also shielded by international law because they are "protected persons" under Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

This attempt to move the Camp Ashraf residents to a remote prison in the middle of the deserts appears to be an ugly attempt by the Iraqi government to appease the Iranian regime. Groups such as Amnesty International warn that it may even lead to their forcible return to Iran. If returned to Iran, these members of the Iranian opposition would face almost certain torture and even death.

Madam Speaker, I call on the Iraqi government to keep its promise to the United States

and uphold its obligations under international law. Attempting to mollify the tyrannical, illegitimate Iranian regime at the expense of these pro-democracy activists would be a tragic mistake. I call on the Iraqi government to ensure the protection that these exiles were promised and to which they are entitled under international law.

HONORING SONOMA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has long served as a spirited defender of the Valley's interests, by encouraging new industry, organizing beautification projects and managing flood control efforts.

The Chamber began the evening of April 10, 1909, when 32 businessmen convened over dinner to discuss how they could stimulate commerce for the benefit of local merchants and professionals.

Membership quickly grew to 100 and the Chamber began their first initiatives, like publishing marketing material and establishing committees to begin tackling an ambitious agenda. In the early years, the Chamber called for transportation improvements and successfully lobbied Congress to protect a local federal facility from closure.

During the Great Depression, the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in addressing needs of a paralyzed business community. To generate renewed interest in the organization, the Chamber hosted an event benefiting street and driveway improvements.

In the subsequent years, the Chamber pioneered many efforts, including the creation of a commuter bus service to San Francisco, the endorsement of a municipal water system, support for State Parks and advocacy for underground utility and telephone lines. Notably, the Chamber raised local matching funds for a job stimulus program that was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chamber was designated as a farm labor office tasked with steering workers to local farmers. In the years following the war, the Chamber focused on supporting an adequate sewage system, the introduction of local hospital and the adoption of a zoning plan. By mid-century, the Chamber hosted an industrial conference, boldly escalating efforts to bring new industry to the Valley.

Today the Chamber has expanded its membership to more than 700 leaders who continue to help ensure a thriving economy through advocacy, promotion, networking, education and services.

Operating under the mantra that "Strong businesses make strong communities," the Chamber hosts events, publishes a business magazine and offers comprehensive business, community and visitor resources. The Chamber also leads recognition efforts, honoring the business of the year and green businesses.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. In years to come, this organization will remain an integral and powerful force that continues to enrich the business community for the benefit of all Sonoma Valley residents.

IN MEMORY OF DONNA FREEMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor the memory of Donna Cook Freeman of Bodega Bay in my district, an energetic community activist from whose petite frame exuded a feisty kind of determination combined with warmth and humor that earned friends, political power and a long list of accomplishments.

Donna came to Bodega Bay a half-century ago as a young, poor and pregnant fisherman's wife with two small children in tow. She left Bodega Bay and this earthly plane on October 30, 2009 after two weeks of farewell visits from at least 150 friends. She was 72.

Donna Cook Freeman became involved in local politics in the early '60s in one of the earliest environmental battles of the modern era, the fight over the planned construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. Donna and several other "ordinary" townspeople and their friends took on the giant utility, and ultimately won after they exposed the danger of building the plant directly on the San Andreas Fault.

Remaining active in coastal issues, she served on the California Coastal Commission's advisory board for the county's coastal plan. She campaigned for a local assessment to provide paramedics for the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District. Later she served three terms as a director of the Fire District. She was also a founder of the Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, and served as president and a director of the Bodega Bay Chamber of Commerce, and for a decade served on the board of the Sonoma County Fair. She successfully fought for new port facilities for commercial and recreational fishermen that became Spud Point Marina.

She also created a special place in a scrub filled ravine at the foot of Bodega Head. She filled it with cool ferns, waving trees, rippling ponds, narrow foot bridges and a gazebo she salvaged from the set of Alfred Hitchcock's Bodega Bay-based classic film, "The Birds." This sheltered refuge she called "Compass Rose Garden," named both for the center of a compass and her mother. She raised her family in a cottage in the garden, and turned its verdant grounds into a place for weddings, family events, community celebrations, and political fundraisers that both advertised and expanded her political influence.

She served on the Democratic State Central Committee, and her endorsement was gold to numerous political candidates courting west Sonoma County votes. She served a vital role in ushering in progressive politics to the county when she successfully managed the campaign of former Sonoma County Supervisor Ernie Carpenter.

Last month she was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer and as her life ebbed away she made plans for a final celebration at Compass Rose Garden. It was not to be. Yet she leaves a legacy of progress, a legion of friends, and a loving family that includes her husband, Clarence Freeman, her two daughters Melinda McLees and Melissa Freeman; three sons, Scott Freeman, Kevin Freeman, and Steve Freeman; and their families, which include seven grandchildren; as well as her brother James Cook and a sister Dorothy Cook Hewett, and their families.

Madam Speaker, Donna Cook Freeman brought creativity, vibrancy and determination to every endeavor she took on. She led by her powers of persuasion and her personal magnetism. She was born in the Depression but was guided through her life by her joyous sense of possibility. When the boats are blessed at the next Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, we will think of her, and recall a spirit that could rise above the waves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009, I was unable to be in the chamber for two Rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 969, H. Res. 776, a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals of National Runaway Prevention Month and "yea" on rollcall No. 970, H. Res. 942, a resolution commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a record of how I would have voted on December 14, 2009. Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 969 and "yes" on rollcall No. 970.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall votes 969 and 970 and voice votes on December 14, 2009 due to a pre-existing medical appointment. I would have voted: On rollcall vote No. 969 I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 970 I would have voted "yea"; voice vote on S. 303 I would have voted "yea"; voice vote on H.R. 4284 I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, December 14, 2009.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 969 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 779), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 970 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 942).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 10, 2009, I missed rollcall No. 950. If present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MR. ARNOLD MINICUCCI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Arnold Minicucci of Watertown, Connecticut.

For the last 59 years, Arnold Minicucci has been the proud owner and manager of Minicucci's Incorporated, a menswear clothier and downtown mainstay in Waterbury, Connecticut. This coming January, he will retire and close the store he took over from his father more than a half-century ago, ending one of Waterbury's most beloved and long-tenured businesses.

After returning from service during World War I, Arnold's father founded Minicucci's in Waterbury in 1919 as a maker of custom men's suits. Upon his return from service in the Navy during World War II, Arnold joined his father's business in 1946 and became full owner of the store four years later, transitioning the establishment into a retail suit seller. Soon thereafter, Arnold moved the store from East Main Street to its present location at 52 Bank Street. Throughout its history, Minicucci's has served mayors and governors alike, with loyal customers whose relationship with the store can be measured in decades.

Anyone who's spent any time living or working in Waterbury knows Arnold and his beloved wife, Mary, both of whom were born and married in the Brass City. They are true pillars of the community: former chairs of the Cancer Ball, long-serving members of the Immaculate Conception Church and the Exchange Club, and a driving force behind the construction of the Little League Stadium, to name but a few of their strong ties to Waterbury.

Every one of Arnold's hundreds of friends and loyal customers who attend his retirement

party early next year will receive a silver money clip engraved with the words "Minicucci's 1919–2009." That night, all those that have been touched by Arnold's work will celebrate him and his family's business. But, amidst the celebration, there will also be a palpable pang of sorrow—that they don't make businesses like Minicucci's anymore. Or men like Arnold Minicucci.

HONORING MILLIE KLAPEL OF ANDOVER, MINNESOTA, ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Millie Klapel of Andover, Minnesota, on the occasion of her upcoming 100th birthday this December 20, 2009. As friends and family gather to celebrate her life, I am pleased to share her accomplishments with this Congress today.

Millie has lived the American dream. She worked for one of Minnesota's favorite department stores, Dayton's, in the monogram department. In her free time Millie volunteered at her church and taught Sunday school class for over 60 years. She also visited shut-ins and served as a prayer warrior for those in need of support during difficult times. In her 90's, she was honored as runner up for Sunday School Teacher of the Year from the Assemblies of God churches.

Millie is an inspiration to her family, friends and community and has always put others first. Even at 100 years old, she still lives on her own and maintains her independence.

Madam Speaker, again, I'd like to wish Millie Klapel a happy 100th birthday and I ask this Congress to join with me in celebrating Millie's life.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,071,280,871,918.40.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,432,855,125,624.6 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Chair, years of abuse on Wall Street, manipulation of our financial markets and expansion of regulatory loopholes have harmed American consumers and businesses, leading to the global financial disaster last fall. As the U.S. House of Representatives sought to craft aggressive financial regulatory reforms, I worked with the relevant Committee Chairmen and Democratic leadership to end the abuses that have allowed Wall Street to profit at the expense of American consumers for far too long.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, falls short of ending the practice of Wall Street speculators, big banks and the nation's largest financial houses (Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America and Citigroup) operating outside the watchful eye of federal regulators. Because this bill does not put an end to many of these abuses, I must oppose H.R. 4173.

As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I have led a three-year-long investigation into the role speculators play in driving up the cost of energy. What we have learned from our investigation can be applied across the energy, commodity, and financial markets: As long as loopholes exist, speculators will manipulate markets and consumers will pay the price.

I fought for and made part of the American Clean Energy and Security Act regulatory reform for the energy and carbon markets. The provisions found in the Prevent Unfair Manipulation of Prices, PUMP, Act of 2009 should have served as a starting point for further reform of the unregulated over-the-counter derivatives markets known as "dark markets." Unfortunately, this legislative precedent and my amendments were ignored in favor of big money interests on Wall Street. But those of us who have spent time working on this issue know true regulatory reform cannot occur without bringing transparency to all markets and subjecting all financial transactions to federal oversight.

Therefore, I offered two amendments to H.R. 4173 to close loopholes and bring strong reform to the unregulated "dark markets." The first amendment required all trades to occur on an open marketplace, effectively bringing an end to "dark markets" so regulators could see the transactions. This most fundamental reform would have brought sunshine to the largest unregulated financial sector of our economy. For example, trades on the regulated markets totaled \$80 trillion in 2008 while

trades on the unregulated "dark markets" accounted for \$600 trillion, or 41 times the size of the entire U.S. economy. Regulators could not view the transactions, the contracts or the financial terms of these trades.

As Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, Chairman Gary Gensler noted in a letter supporting my amendment, "As a nation, we do not stand for this lack of transparency in other markets." Staunch opposition from Wall Street led to the amendment's defeat, despite Gensler's assertion that: "your (Stupak) amendment promotes the critical goal of promoting transparency without imposing any additional cost on business." Without providing our regulators the most basic tools they say they need to effectively monitor the markets, we cannot call H.R. 4173 a true reform bill.

My second amendment narrowed a loophole that banks and large financial houses use to avoid regulation, prohibited credit default swap contracts that threaten the stability of the financial markets, and prohibited illegal swap contracts from being considered valid in a court. A comprehensive financial regulatory reform bill has to close the loopholes that allow speculators to control the markets. In defeating my second amendment, speculators will be allowed to continue their abusive practices.

Defeating my second amendment was not Wall Street's only success in ensuring loopholes remain in place. Banks, large financial firms and speculators were able to push through an amendment authored by Congressman SCOTT MURPHY that widened the loophole banks can use to evade regulation.

Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK offered an amendment to ensure everyone trading in the markets has some "skin in the game" by requiring collateral be posted up front. The amendment was opposed by Wall Street and it ultimately failed.

Many parts of H.R. 4173 accomplish important financial reform, and I support efforts to protect consumers from predatory financial products and end taxpayer funded bailouts. The amendment process on the House floor offered the opportunity to strengthen the bill in a way that delivers true reform across all of our financial markets. Unfortunately, Wall Street succeeded in using this opportunity to weaken the bill and significantly dilute the impact the legislation would have on their practices.

If regulators cannot shine a light on "dark markets" and loopholes can be exploited by Wall Street, we are just a few years away from another economic crisis. Leaving "dark markets" unregulated, unchecked and unfazed allows speculators to dictate prices for goods ranging from gasoline to bread to life insurance, and leaves consumers vulnerable to these financial abuses.

Today "dark markets" operate like a casino, with a commercial business betting that the price of a product will move in one direction and a Wall Street bank betting against that price change. The only difference is that we actually regulate casinos. On Wall Street neither the company nor the

bank are subject to regulation. Only the largest Wall Street banks know the price or volume of these trades, leaving federal regulators and consumers in the dark. H.R. 4173 does nothing to change this.

Leaving these markets to police themselves has resulted in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, taking over 133 banks so far this year, a record. When these markets implode, credit across the financial system freezes. Small businesses and farmers can't secure loans. Community banks, credit unions and businesses are threatened with insolvency, and ultimately employees and taxpayers are left out in the cold. H.R. 4173 attempts to bring regulation to these markets, but leaves loopholes and creates new ones that far outweigh any positive reforms in the bill.

I want to thank Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO and Congressman JOHN LARSON for their strong support in working with me to try to strengthen this bill and bring true reform to Wall Street.

As H.R. 4173 moves through the legislative process, I will work with Senators MARIA CANTWELL, BERNIE SANDERS, BYRON DORGAN and others who have a shared interest in closing loopholes that remain a threat to our economy. It is imperative that the bill be strengthened in the U.S. Senate to rein in speculators and end the abusive practices of Wall Street's largest financial houses. I hope the Senate can accomplish these goals in the form of a final bill I can support.

I did not vote for the Wall Street bailout last year. Once again, I stood up to Wall Street's reckless financial transactions. Now, we need more members of Congress to stand with me for effective regulatory reform. For I believe, in this one instance where doing too little is a far greater threat than doing too much.

TREATISE ENTITLED "SHINING CITY ON A HILL"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, one of my constituents, E.M. Massey, is a dedicated Christian who is very concerned about the moral decline of this Nation.

As the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said, we have been "defining deviancy down, accepting as a part of life what we once found repugnant."

I want to call the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD portions of a Treatise entitled "Shining City on a Hill," submitted by Mr. Massey.

A SHINING CITY ON A HILL

Introduction: In 1630, John Winthrop, governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, wrote a sermon while on the Arbella, on his way to the new world. "For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword throughout the world." (This was one of President Reagan's favorite quotes.)

Truly, the founding of America was in so many ways, the work of God. Yet as we look at the America of today, we see a vastly different picture.

On April 6, 2009, President Obama, speaking in the country of Turkey said: "America is not a Christian nation, or a Jewish nation, or a Muslim nation. We are a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and sets of values."

Over the past 40 years, the idea of a "Christian America" has been disparaged by many. Christians have been criticized and vilified for their involvement in the political arena. The Revisionist's interpretation of the First Amendment has been at the forefront in this debate. Michael Medved in his book, *The 10 Big Lies About America*, points this out.

Following the 2004 reelection of George W. Bush, a frenzied flurry of books and articles warned unsuspecting Americans of the imminent takeover of their cherished Republic by an all-powerful, implacable theocratic conspiracy.

In *American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America*, former New York Times correspondent Chris Hedges breathlessly reported:

"All it will take is one more national crisis on the order of September 11 for the Christian Right to make a concerted drive to destroy American democracy. . . . This movement will not stop until we are ruled by Biblical Law, an authoritarian church intrudes in every aspect of our life, women stay at home and rear children, gays agree to be cured, abortion is considered murder, the press and the schools promote 'positive' Christian values, the federal government is gutted, war becomes our primary form of communication with the rest of the world and recalcitrant non-believers see their flesh eviscerated at the sound of the Messiah's voice."

According to Hedges (a recent—and surprisingly genial—guest on my radio show), it makes no sense to try to reason with the "Christian Fascists" he fears. "All debates with the Christian Right are useless," he writes, because they "hate the liberal, enlightened world formed by the Constitution."

Scores of other releases from major publishers sought to arouse the nation's slumbering conscience to confront the perils of "the American Taliban." These titles include the blockbuster best seller *American Theocracy* plus additional cheery volumes such as *Jesus Is Not a Republican: The Religious Right's War on America*; *The Baptizing of America: The Religious Right's Plans for the Rest of Us*; *Why the Christian Right is Wrong*; *Liars for Jesus*; *The Theocons: Secular America Under Siege*; *The Hijacking of Jesus*; and many, many more.

Some worried observers expected Christian conservatives to remake America along the lines of Iran or Nazi Germany, while others suggested that they would follow the genocidal path of Communist China. In reviewing the Oscar-nominated documentary *Jesus Camp*, Stephen Holden of the New York Times solemnly declared: "It wasn't so long ago that another puritanical youth army, Mao Zedong's Red Guards, turned the world's most populous country inside out. Nowadays, the possibility of a right-wing Christian American version of what happened in China no longer seems entirely far fetched."

So, we are faced with a question: Was America founded on Christian principles and were we ever a Christian nation?

March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry spoke in the Virginia House of Burgesses "There is no longer room for hope. If we wish to be free,

we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us! They tell me that we are weak, but shall we gather strength by irresolution? We are not weak. Three million people, armed in the holy cause of liberty and in such a country, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations, and will raise up friends for us. The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave, * * * Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

On July 4, 1776, The Declaration of Independence was unanimously adopted * * * Samuel Adams rose * * * "We have this day restored the Sovereign, to whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven and * * * from the rising to the setting sun, may His Kingdom come * * *"

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness * * * The Declaration contained a solemn appeal 'to the supreme judge of the world' and concludes with * * * 'A firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.'"

Of the 56 signers, 54 were identified as Christians * * *.

Benjamin Franklin once said: "I have lived, Sir a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concerning aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel; we shall be divided by our little, partial local interests; our projects will be confounded; and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war or conquest."

Joseph Story, a Supreme Court Justice from 1811 to 1845 (appointed by James Madison, the father of the Constitution) and, as a long-time Harvard professor, was the leading early commentator to the Constitution. He observed: "The general if not universal sentiment in America was that Christianity ought to receive encouragement from the State so far as not incompatible with the private rights of conscience and freedom of religious worship. An attempt to level all religion and to make it a matter of state policy to hold all in utter indifference would have created universal disapprobation, if not universal indignation. The real object of the First Amendment * * * was to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects, and to prevent any national ecclesiastical establishment which should give a hierarchy the exclusive patronage of the national government."

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE STORIED HISTORY OF THE TRI-CITY RECORD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a cornerstone of our community, the Tri-City Record, which is currently celebrating its 25th year with Anne and Karl Bayer at the helm. Since its founding as the Weekly Record in 1882, the Tri-City Record has been a lifeline for southwest Michigan, reliably keeping folks informed on significant news and community events.

What began as the Weekly Record became the Watervliet Record in 1884. Through the years, with only a handful of owners, the newspaper grew to report not only on news in the city of Watervliet, but also the surrounding communities of Coloma and Hartford. A century after the first name change, the newspaper was purchased by Anne and Karl Bayer in 1984, and soon became the Tri-City Record.

Under the Bayer family's stewardship, countless residents have come to rely upon the Tri-City Record to stay connected with the community and keep up on current events. I commend the Tri-City Record's rich tradition of excellence and proud history of reporting to Coloma, Hartford, Watervliet and across the State of Michigan.

As the newspaper industry across the Nation has been strained during the digital age, the Tri-City Record continues to be a jewel in our corner of southwest Michigan. I salute Anne and Karl Bayer and the entire staff on reaching this milestone and wish them continued success for many years to come.

Twenty-five years later and still going strong, the Bayers represent a most important chapter in the storied history of the Tri-City Record.

THANKING JOHN BRANDT FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a broadcasting icon in western Nebraska, John Brandt. Yesterday, Ogallala joined together to thank John for his 40 years of broadcasting service to the area.

A 1963 graduate of Superior High School in Superior, Nebraska, John has been a fixture on the airwaves for listeners in my district since December of 1969.

Never one to shy away from the hard-hitting questions, John earned his reputation as being a tough but fair interviewer, whose only motivation was to provide his listeners with the most up-to-date information available.

He has given back to the Ogallala community in so many ways and I fully expect this service to continue. I wish him well as he continues to serve the community and our State as a whole.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2010:

1. Project Name—Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Project
Requesting Member—SCOTT GARRETT
Bill Number—H.R. 2996, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2010

Account—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Land Acquisition

Requesting Entity—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge, 1547 County Route 565, Sussex, NJ 07461

Description of the Project—This funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will further consolidate refuge ownership and important habitat, increase recreational opportunities within the refuge, and maintain the water quality in the Highlands region of New Jersey. The national wildlife refuge system was created to ensure protection of ecologically sensitive wildlife species and the Walkill River NWR was added to the system because of the importance of the biodiversity along the river. Adding these 237 acres to the refuge would also meet the criteria of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by providing additional opportunities for public recreation, outdoor education and research, and by protecting open space and habitat for wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, in our rapidly developing state.

Description of the Spending Plan—(\$1,400,000)

The \$1.4 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY 2010 will further consolidate refuge ownership and important habitat, increase recreational opportunities within the refuge, and maintain the water quality in the Highlands region of New Jersey. The national wildlife refuge system was created to ensure protection of ecologically sensitive wildlife species and the Walkill River NWR was added to the system because of the importance of the biodiversity along the river. Adding these acres to the refuge would also meet the criteria of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by providing additional opportunities for public recreation, outdoor education and research, and by protecting open space and habitat for wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, in our rapidly developing state.

Total—\$1,400,000

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on December 14, 2009 due to a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 969 and "yea" on rollcall 970.

JASON FABINI'S SERVICE IN THE NFL

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, today on the floor of the House of Representatives I would like to recognize the amazing accomplishments of Jason Fabini of Indiana. As an eleven year veteran of the National Football League Jason was a member of three teams, playing under five coaches. Mr. Fabini began his football career in Fort Wayne, Indiana at Bishop Dwenger High School. A standout high-school athlete, Mr. Fabini was recruited to play football at the University of Cincinnati.

As a Cincinnati Bearcat Fabini truly developed his skills, and prepared for a lengthy career in the National Football League. While at Cincinnati, Fabini was a three-time All-Conference USA selection. As a sophomore, Fabini started every game and was named to the third-team All National Independent list. His growth continued when, in his junior year, he received Cincinnati's top award for an offensive lineman—the John Pease Award. In the 1997 season Fabini helped lead the Bearcats to their first bowl-game victory in 47 years.

In the 1998 NFL Draft, the New York Jets selected Jason Fabini as their fourth round pick. As a rookie for the Jets, Fabini started all sixteen games. In his second season with New York, Jason suffered a setback when he tore his ACL in a game against the New England Patriots. While Fabini was forced to miss the last seven games of his second season in the NFL due to his knee injury, he persevered and returned to the field ready to play the following season. In 2000, when Jason Fabini returned to the Jets' starting offensive line, he led the offensive to a tie with the Indianapolis Colts for fewest sacks allowed, 20. In recognition of Fabini's return to play after his injury, the New York Jets awarded him the Ed Block Courage Award in 2000. While with the New York Jets Fabini paved the way for Curtis Martin, RB, to rush over 1,000 yards in seven consecutive seasons, 1998–2004, and in 2004 helped Martin set a club record for most yards rushed in a single season, 1,697 yards. In 2004, Fabini started his 100th career game against the Arizona Cardinals.

In 2006 Fabini went to play for the Dallas Cowboys. During his year with the Cowboys, Fabini played fifteen games for Dallas.

In 2007 Jason Fabini signed with the Washington Redskins, a Dallas rival. As a Redskin, Fabini played in all sixteen games, starting in 13 of them. His versatility as a lineman was truly an asset for Washington and helped Clinton Portis, RB, rush for over 1,200 yards. In 2007, in a game against his old team, the New York Jets, Fabini lead the offensive line to block for 296 yards, the third-highest single-game rushing total in Washington Redskins' history.

In February of 2009 Fabini was inducted into the University of Cincinnati Athletics Hall of Fame.

Jason Fabini has had a long, successful football career. He played in over 152 games, starting over 129 of those games. Throughout his career, Fabini started in eight postseason

contests. Although still young, Fabini has decided to retire from playing professional football so that he can focus on his family and a promising future. Jason Fabini has four sons: Hunter, Jacob, John Michael, and Jordan and is the son of Tom Fabini and Madeline Lombardo of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

PROCLAMATION ISSUED TO MS.
MARY ANNE SHARP

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit this proclamation which I issued to Ms. Mary Anne Sharp.

Whereas, Forty-five years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve as Director of the Decatur Civic Chorus in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, Ms. Mary Anne Sharp began her educational career in Decatur, Georgia, attending Decatur public schools, Oglethorpe University and Emory University; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents with the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and the world through directing and producing concerts that continue to touch the lives of many; and

Whereas, Ms. Sharp is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Mary Anne Sharp on her 45th Anniversary as Director of the Decatur Civic Chorus and to congratulate her on this milestone;

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim December 13, 2009 as Ms. Mary Anne Sharp Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 13th day of December, 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 14, 2009, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 969 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 779, as amended) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 970 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 942, as amended).

MS. MARIAN WILSON-SYLVESTRE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Ms. Marian Wilson-Sylvestre, who has dutifully served the American Red

Cross, Bay Area Chapter and touched the lives of those in need for nearly 30 years. Her work has affected countless people beset by fires, floods and other disasters, and has ensured that volunteers and communities throughout the 9th Congressional District are ready and resilient in the face of adversity.

Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre has been involved in community-building, volunteerism, education and healing for the length of her career. After attending Columbia University in New York City, Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre received a Master of Social Work at New York's Adelphi University.

Her career in alleviating affliction and pain for others began at the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic at New York Hospital, where she observed and aided patients as a Psychiatric Assistant. Next, her skills in social work and teaching brought her to the Cardinal McCloskey Home and School for Children where she worked with foster children.

In 1978, after arriving in the Bay Area, Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre served Bayview Hunter's Point Mental Health Clinic as a child and family therapist, and also began teaching at San Francisco Community College. Her career with the Bay Area Chapter of the American Red Cross began when she became Director of Project New Pride in 1980. For the next 29 years, she worked her way up through the ranks of the American Red Cross, both fulfilling and exceeding her duties as Case Work Supervisor, Regional Manager, County Executive, and, for the last 14 years, Senior Executive Officer.

Marian has truly utilized leadership, skill, dedication and a penchant for compassion in her life's work, and I am certain she will continue to do so in her future endeavors. As member of many quality organizations, including the National Association of Social Workers, Rotary Club of Oakland, the California Personnel and Guidance Association, the East Bay Women's Political Action Committee, and the boards of City of Oakland Emergency Management, Travelers Aid Society and Allen Temple Baptist Church Health Ministry, Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre has served the community in innumerable ways.

Her work has been celebrated throughout the 9th Congressional District, and beyond, including an award from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Tiffany Award for Management Excellence, a 2002 Congressional Recognition Award, the 1990 National HIV/AIDS Cultural Diversity Award, being named the 2002 Honoree for Black Women Organized for Political Action, and the Oakland Unified School District's recurring honor of Principal for a Day.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I salute you, Marian Wilson-Sylvestre, for a successful career of service and your unwavering commitment to others. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on your retirement, and I wish you the very best.

HONORING THE CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF SMALL TOWNS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Connecticut Council of

Small Towns (COST) for celebrating its 35th anniversary. Several Connecticut town leaders founded COST in 1975 to provide a strong voice for the state's smaller municipalities in both our State's and the Nation's capital.

COST is a grassroots advocacy organization comprised of nearly 120 member municipalities. The organization offers valuable information and training resources to help municipal leaders meet the challenges they face as chief executives of Connecticut's smaller non-metro and suburban areas. It is the only organization dedicated solely to the interests of Connecticut's small suburban and rural municipalities.

Through meetings, conferences, and events, COST brings together the leaders of small towns with legislators to foster discussion about issues that are most important to Connecticut's small communities. The organization provides information to towns regarding public policy and pending legislation, and how they will affect small towns and their citizens.

COST members benefit from connecting with other municipal leaders across the State, sharing ideas, and discussing the similar challenges that they face. Participating municipalities save money by working collectively to advocate for State and Federal aid to towns in Connecticut.

I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Connecticut Council of Small Towns in celebrating its anniversary. Many of COST's member towns reside within my district in eastern Connecticut and highly regard the organization for providing a voice for them in all levels of government. We thank COST for its service and look forward to working with the organization in the future to help Connecticut's communities succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night and earlier today I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 779, H. Res. 942, H. Res. 894, H.R. 1517, and H.R. 3978 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Last night, I met with constituents of mine in a town hall forum at the Prairie Winds Retirement Center in Urbana, Illinois and I was unable to arrive in Washington, DC to cast my votes.

Had I been present on rollcall No. 969 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 779, Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 970 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 942, Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 971 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 894, Honoring the 50th anniversary of the recording of the album "Kind of Blue" and reaffirming jazz as a national treasure, I would have voted "aye." One of my constituents, Lamont Parsons of Urbana, Illinois, is a regionally famous jazz guitarist who has inspired in

me and many of my constituents a lifelong appreciation for jazz and its influences and it truly is a national treasure.

Had I been present on rollcall No. 972 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1517, To allow certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent appointment in the competitive service, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 973 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3978, First Responders Anti-Terrorism, Training Resources Act, I would have voted "aye."

GALLAGHER-HANSEN VFW POST'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Gallagher-Hansen Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 295, Department of Minnesota, on the occasion of the Post's 90th Anniversary. Since its original charter in 1919, the Gallagher-Hansen VFW Post has been dedicated to serving veterans and the entire community of South Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Founded as the Patrick Gallagher Post in honor of a local World War I veteran, the post was renamed to honor Lt. Harry C. Hansen, a post member, who lost his life during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II.

All veterans have served and sacrificed on behalf of our great Nation, but many veterans continue their noble service after their tours of duty have been completed. The members of the Gallagher-Hansen VFW Post are among these selfless servants.

Throughout its proud history, the Gallagher-Hansen Post and Auxiliary have earned distinction as exceptional Veterans Service Organizations. Beyond its strong support for veterans, the post is also a community cornerstone. From providing donations to the Dakota County Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund and the South St. Paul Police K-9 unit, to sponsoring an annual Children's Safety Camp and funding a new scoreboard at Wakota Arena, Gallagher-Hansen provides steadfast support to residents in the area.

Gallagher-Hansen's reputation for outstanding public service extends deep into its ranks. Post 295 has been the home VFW post to many state and national leaders, including former Minnesota Governors Karl Rolvaag, Harold Stassen and Orville Freeman. Other members include: past National Ladies VFW Auxiliary President Lola Reid, whose late husband Dr. James Reid served as past Surgeon General of the VFW; past National VFW Chaplain Father Harold E. Whittel; Robert Hansen, past Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the brother of Lt. Harry C. Hansen; and the late U.S. Navy Admiral John S. McCain, father of U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the 90th Anniversary of the Gallagher-Hansen VFW Post No. 295, and the veterans

who have given so much in support of their fellow veterans, families and our community.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC GENEROSITY OF CLARA WARD OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. KATHLEEN A. DAHLKEMPER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman in Erie, Pennsylvania, who has dedicated her life to helping the children of her community. Clara Ward, the founder of the Youth Development and Family Center in Erie, was the star of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," this week, where her indomitable spirit and dedication to the well-being of children in need was rewarded with an amazing renovation to her more than eighty year old home.

Clara Ward, with her son Bennie and daughter Cynthia, has continually put aside her own needs to take care of the children in her community. Too often, the children in Clara's neighborhood lack the care and resources they need to succeed, to be healthy and safe. These children rely on the generosity of their "Aunt Clara" to have a safe haven after school, where they can play off the streets and out of harm's way.

Many of the children who come to the Youth Development and Family Center would go to bed hungry without the generosity of Clara, Bennie and Cynthia, who feed and welcome children into their home almost every day. Not only does Clara provide a safe space, but she offers these children clothes, blankets and toys that they might not otherwise have. This time every year, Clara gives toys to 300 children for the holidays.

Clara's boundless generosity is all the more remarkable given her own condition. Clara suffers from myasthenia gravis, a degenerative muscular disease that requires her to use a wheelchair. In her old home, Clara's mobility was severely limited and she struggled to move through rooms and hallways that had no space for her wheelchair. Now, thanks to the renovation, Clara can move with ease through a home designed with her needs in mind.

Clara Ward's selflessness has inspired the entire community of Erie. It was her good work that motivated local builder John Maleno and his family to nominate Clara for "Extreme Makeover," which drew 3,000 volunteers and donations from 200 companies. Clara's story has inspired our city and helped us show the world that Erie, Pennsylvania, is a place where neighbors look out for each other and the spirit of generosity runs deep.

Madam Speaker, it is my proud duty to enter the name of Clara Ward in the record of the United States House of Representatives as a hero of Erie, Pennsylvania.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker earlier today a news conference was held with Congressmen

DONALD PAYNE, CHRIS SMITH and myself along with representatives from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), to draw attention to the desperate situation in Sudan. We heard compelling firsthand accounts of what transpired in Khartoum last week. Arrests, detention, tear gas and beatings of peaceful Sudanese protesters including several high-ranking Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) officials. These protesters had gathered in the streets to press Sudan's President Bashir and his National Congress Party (NCP) to demand passage of important laws by the National Assembly.

Khartoum's actions are inexcusable, but why should we be surprised, given the head of state is an accused war criminal. We also know from widely reported information that the National Congress Party (NCP) is obstructing the establishment of conditions for free and fair elections. The world also still awaits reform of the national security law.

Against this backdrop of violence and intimidation by Khartoum, the NCP and the SPLM entered into intense negotiations over the weekend. While reports indicate that a tentative compromise has been reached, the outcome is still far from assured. And if the coming weeks don't yield the necessary results, the long-suffering people of Sudan will watch any real prospect of lasting peace and justice slip away. Will the U.S. stand by and allow this to happen?

For years the U.S. has been a leader on the world stage in advocating for the marginalized people of Sudan. This is an issue, unlike many in Washington, which has enjoyed broad, bipartisan support. In January 2005, after two and half years of negotiations, the North and the South signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) bringing about an end to the 21-year-old civil war during which nearly two million people died, most of whom were civilians. I was at the signing of the CPA in Kenya along with Congressman PAYNE. Hopes were high for a new Sudan.

Sadly those hopes are quickly dimming as President Bashir becomes further entrenched and principled U.S. leadership on Sudan wanes. On the eve of the five-year anniversary of the signing, the CPA hangs in the balance as does Sudan's future.

President Obama's special envoy to Sudan, General Scott Gration, was appointed in March of this year. Many in Congress, myself included, had pressed for a special envoy in the hope of elevating the issue of Sudan particularly at this critical juncture in the implementation of the CPA and with genocide in Darfur still ongoing.

While there have been times in the months following that I have been concerned by the direction that this administration appeared to be taking in Sudan, I refrained from any public criticism, not wanting to do anything that could jeopardize peace or progress on these critical issues. But I can be silent no longer.

The time has come for Secretary Clinton and President Obama to personally and actively engage on Sudan.

During the campaign, then candidate Obama said, "Washington must respond to the ongoing genocide and the ongoing failure to implement the CPA with consistency and strong consequences." He went on to say, "The Bush administration should be holding Sudan accountable for failing to implement significant aspects of the 2005 Comprehensive

Peace Agreement (CPA), imperiling the prospects for scheduled multiparty elections in 2009."

I could not agree more. Accountability is imperative. The CPA is not up for re-negotiation. But the burden for action, the weight of leadership, now rests with this president and this president alone.

I have consistently received reports from people on the ground that this administration's posture toward Sudan has only emboldened Bashir and the NCP.

The December 12 Wall Street Journal editorial page put it this way, "As a candidate, Mr. Obama stood with the human rights champions of Darfur and pledged tougher sanctions and a possible no-fly zone if a Sudanese regime infamous for genocide didn't shape up. His tone has changed in office . . . the preference for diplomacy over pressure has encouraged the hard men in Khartoum to stoke the flames in Darfur, ignoring an arms embargo and challenging the U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force there."

Khartoum is savvy in the ways of Washington. This softening in the U.S. posture has not gone unnoticed.

In recent written testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, the top UN investigator said, "In contrast to that leadership of 2004 and 2005, the United States appears to have now joined the group of influential states who sit by quietly and do nothing to ensure that sanctions protect Darfurians."

This administration's engagement with Sudan to date has failed to recognize the true nature of Bashir and the NCP.

Having been to Sudan five times, I've seen the work of their hands with my own eyes. In June 2004 I was part of the first congressional delegation with Senator SAM BROWNBACK to Darfur, soon after the world began hearing about the atrocities being committed against the people of that region. I witnessed the nightmare. I saw the scorched villages and overflowing camps. I heard the stories of murder, rape and displacement. In the summer of 2004, the Congress spoke with one voice in calling what was happening in Darfur genocide.

In addition to the massive human rights abuses perpetrated by the Sudanese government against its own people, it is also important to note that Sudan remains on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. It is well known that the same people currently in control in Khartoum gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden in the early 1990's. I was troubled by Special Envoy Graton's comments this summer at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing that "there is no evidence in our intelligence community that supports [Sudan] being on the state sponsors of terrorism list . . ." despite the findings of the 2008 State Department Country Reports on Terrorism that ". . . there have been open source reports that arms were purchased in Sudan's black market and allegedly smuggled northward to Hamas."

Last week marked the anniversary of the adoption of the 1948 Genocide Convention. In the aftermath of the Nazi-perpetrated Holocaust the world pledged "Never Again." But these words ring hollow for the woman in the camp in Darfur who has been brutally raped by government-backed janjaweed so that they might, in their own words, make lighter

skinned babies. Were these horrors taking place in Europe would the world stand by and watch?

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which sits just blocks from here, bears witness to genocide and related crimes against humanity around the world. The museum's warning for Sudan stems from "(t)he Sudanese government's established capacity and willingness to commit genocide and related crimes against humanity. This is evidenced by actions the government has taken in the western region of Darfur, the Nuba Mountains, and the South that include:

- Use of mass starvation and mass forcible displacement as a weapon of destruction;
- Pattern of obstructing humanitarian aid;
- Harassment of internally displaced persons;
- Bombing of hospitals, clinics, schools, and other civilian sites;

- Use of rape as a weapon against targeted groups;

- Employing a divide-to-destroy strategy of pitting ethnic groups against each other, with enormous loss of civilian life;

- Training and supporting ethnic militias who commit atrocities;

- Destroying indigenous cultures;

- Enslavement of women and children by government-support militias;

- Impeding and failing to fully implement peace agreements.

These are hardly our partners in peace. And yet, we cannot claim that Khartoum has been unpredictable, that we did not know what they were capable of. Tragically, they have been utterly consistent for nearly 20 years. They have consistently brutalized their own people. They have consistently failed to live up to agreements. And they have consistently responded only to strength and pressure.

And so I say once again, time is running out. The urgency of the situation calls for intervention at the highest levels of the U.S. Government—specifically the Secretary of State and the President of the United States. The people of Sudan cry out for nothing less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 969 and 970.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 969, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month and, No. 970, commending the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, as the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to highlight some of the contributions made by our Committee to this important legislation. The Committee considered over the course of several months a range of legal issues posed by this legislation, and held two days of hearings this fall on its bankruptcy and antitrust law ramifications—on October 22 in the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, and on November 17 in the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy. Below is a summary of some of the more significant provisions added to the legislation, or revised in it, at the request of the Committee.

BANKRUPTCY LAW

The bill's new emergency procedures for dealing with financial institutions posing imminent toxic danger to our Nation's financial system is an exemption from the bankruptcy laws in favor of a receivership managed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). While appreciative of the need for the government to be able to act with dispatch when the stability of the entire financial system is in jeopardy, and while respectful of the considered judgment of the Treasury Department, the FDIC, and the Financial Services Committee to devise an approach outside the Bankruptcy Code for this purpose, the Judiciary Committee believes it is important to remain mindful of fundamental due process and equitable considerations that are embodied in bankruptcy procedure. The Committee has accordingly limited the availability and extent of this bankruptcy exemption.

First, because this departure from well-established bankruptcy procedures and protections is justified only in the exigencies of an extraordinary emergency threatening stability of the financial system, the Judiciary Committee added a new "purpose" section to the emergency dissolution title to mandate that there be a "strong presumption that resolution under the bankruptcy laws will remain the primary method of resolving financial companies, and the authorities contained in this subtitle will only be used in the most exigent circumstances." The Treasury Secretary is required to explain any determination that such an extraordinary emergency exists, to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, along with other committees.

Our Committee also added provisions ensuring that bankruptcy remains available as the preferred option. There are new provisions authorizing the FDIC, at any time, with the approval of the Treasury Secretary and after consultation with the Financial Services Oversight Council, to convert an emergency receivership into a case under either chapter 7 or chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, while clarifying that doing so will not affect any of the FDIC's powers with regard to any bridge financial company created under the receivership. Upon its appointment, and periodically during the receivership, the FDIC will be required to report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, as well as to other committees, why a receivership is necessary rather than using bankruptcy, and the consequences for the rights of other creditors.

The Committee also added amendments to the Bankruptcy Code to clarify how a case brought by the FDIC proceeds, including authority for the FDIC to serve as trustee, with accommodations to certain trustee obligations in order to make it feasible for the FDIC to serve.

The Committee also adapted a number of key protections from the Bankruptcy Code into the FDIC's new dissolution procedure. These protections include:

Priority protection for unpaid wages and benefit plan contributions for employees of the financial company, who do not have the same recourse against their employer as business creditors have against the company.

Protection of collective bargaining agreements from repudiation by the FDIC, unless the FDIC determines repudiation is necessary for the orderly dissolution of the financial company, taking into consideration the cost to taxpayers and financial stability of the U.S.

Appointment of a consumer privacy advisor to protect the privacy of consumers whose personal information is in the possession of the financial company.

The Committee also directed the Government Accountability Office to undertake two studies and reports:

The first is a report in the event a financial company is taken into emergency receivership and assets are removed by the FDIC, on the extent to which claims against the company for violations of the Truth in Lending Act have been satisfied.

The other is a report on the "safe harbor" provisions for derivatives, swaps, and securities under federal law, that excludes them from bankruptcy and receivership proceedings, on how they have affected the ability of businesses to reorganize.

ANTITRUST LAW

One major impetus of this legislation is to address the problem faced last year by financial institutions that were deemed "too big to fail." The emergency efforts to deal with those institutions led to infusions of billions of federal dollars, and federal guarantees of billions more, putting the Treasury at significant risk.

But "too big to fail" has another aspect that places our nation at significant risk—and that is the potential danger to competition when the marketplace becomes concentrated in the hands of so few competitors that consumers no longer have meaningful choice, and the healthy influence of competition on price, quality, and innovation are lost.

It is important to the Judiciary Committee, as the Committee in charge of the laws protecting our economic freedoms against monopolization and other anticompetitive restraints of trade, that should our nation ever be faced with a similar financial system emergency in the future, that antitrust protections remain in place to ensure that our response does not leave us, when the dust clears, with an even more concentrated market, with companies that are even bigger, with more market power, and less responsive to the consumers they are supposed to serve.

Accordingly, the Committee revised the emergency FDIC dissolution procedures for financial institutions posing imminent toxic danger to the broader financial system, to ensure that any proposed sale of significant assets to a competitor that occurs after the initial urgency has passed would be subject to effective pre-merger antitrust review when war-

ranted, under the procedure developed for reviewing sales of assets during a bankruptcy proceeding. This procedure expedites the initial review, while permitting the antitrust enforcement agency to extend the period when more information is needed to make its assessment. The Committee also clarified that the federal antitrust enforcement agencies would retain their legal authority to challenge a merger or acquisition that would harm competition in violation of the antitrust laws.

These changes balance the need for expeditious transfer of assets from a failing financial company to a safe new home with the imperative of preserving our competitive free market system.

The Committee also revised provisions in the title of the bill dealing with regulation of over-the-counter derivatives markets. Provisions in the legislation as introduced sought to prohibit entities involved in the derivatives markets from engaging in or facilitating anticompetitive conduct. These entities included derivatives clearing organizations, swap dealers, major swap participants, swap execution facilities, clearing agencies, security-based swap dealers, and major security-based swap participants. There was language in these provisions that appeared to create exceptions, and that the Committee was concerned might potentially be read to create exemptions from the antitrust laws.

The Committee revised these provisions to make clear that no antitrust exemptions are intended. In two instances, in parts of the derivatives title amending the Securities Exchange Act, the provisions were removed entirely. In three instances, in parts of the derivatives title amending the Commodity Exchange Act, the exception language was removed to make clear that the prohibitions apply without exception, and to further clarify that the antitrust laws remain fully in effect with respect to any conduct involved.

PRACTICE OF LAW

The Constitutional freedoms and legal rights we enjoy as Americans are ultimately protected in our courts, through the advocacy of attorneys who are licensed to practice before them. In keeping with these critical responsibilities, the activities of these "officers of the court" are regulated by the States, through government bodies, generally overseen by the State's highest court, with specialized expertise in the duties imposed by the code of legal ethics.

Accordingly, the Judiciary Committee revised the Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act title to clarify that the new agency is not being given authority to regulate the practice of law, which is regulated by the State or States in which the attorney is licensed to practice. The Committee further clarified that this is not intended to preclude the new agency from regulating other conduct engaged in by individuals who happen to be attorneys or acting under their direction, as long as the conduct is not part of the practice of law or incidental to the practice of law.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Other contributions by the Judiciary Committee include revisions to the Consumer Financial Protection Agency's new investigative authority to bring it closer into conformity with the Antitrust Civil Process Act, on which it is modeled; clarifications to the new revised procedures for FTC rulemaking in the unfair and deceptive acts or practices area, to bring them

closer in line with the Administrative Procedure Act, as intended; clarifications to the FDIC's new rulemaking authority to ensure it is used in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act; and revisions to the new authority for nationwide service of subpoenas by the Securities and Exchange Commission to ensure that the authority will be exercised consistent with due process.

A STRONG SON OF THE SOUTH IN
HONOR OF SPC CRAIG C. SMITH,
THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American Hero, SPC Craig C. Smith of the 172nd Infantry Bgd 9th Eng from Montgomery County, Alabama. On April 5, 2009 in Iraq, after an IED blast, he almost lost his life . . . but did lose his leg. His battle to overcome his next victory is a lesson to us all. A lesson about faith and courage, and rebuilding his life. Along the way his mother, Rosanna Smith, like so many other mothers and parents have helped their sons and daughters with their unending support. I ask that this poem penned by Albert Caswell of the Capitol Guide Service be placed in the RECORD to honor him.

A STRONG SON OF THE SOUTH

On battlefields of honor bright . . .
There are but those who must win that
fight . . .
Who must march so bravely off to war . . .
To bare the burden, and all of that heartache
endure . . .
Armed but with only their most courageous
hearts, they soar . . .
While, there in the face of dark evil and
death . . .
As they so boldly fight with all that they so
have left!
From where does such strength and courage
so come?
And how do you raise such a magnificent
Southern Son?
A Strong Son of the South, this fine one!
From but a family of love . . .
And a fine Mother, who but holds her son so
very high above . . .
Sweet Home Alabama, this one she loves!
And in times of war . . .
There are new battles, that these fine heroes
and families must now endure . . .
When, in the midst of hell . . . as close to
death, your fine heart so swells . . .
As you lose your fine strong leg, will you win
this new battle?
As it's for him we pray!
For only armed with hearts of courage
full . . .
Will over evil, and heartache so rule!
For you Craig, were once the one . . .
Who like a deer, could so run . . .
Jump so high with all of your speed . . .
A sheer Tour De force, but for his country he
would bleed!
You're A Bama!
That can't be stopped!
With your heart of a hero, Craig you'll climb
this mountain . . . but to the top!
For you got a life to live, and so much to our
world to give . . .
For our Lord God put's men like you upon
this earth . . .
Fine men like you, in all your worth . . .
To Teach Us, To Reach Us, To All of Our
Hearts, To So Beseech Us!

Freedom Fighters, in our Lord's eyes . . .
 Heroes like you Craig so come first . . .
 And if ever I have a son, I but hope and pray
 he could grow up to be like you fine
 one!
 A Strong Son of the South . . .

TRIBUTE TO MRS. RUBY BUTLER,
 BETTER KNOWN TO HER FAMILY
 AND FRIENDS AS "DEAR ME
 BUTLER"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful woman who devoted most of her life to the well-being of her friends and family. Dear Me was born to the parentage of Offie and Lillie Floyd Pitts in Opelika, Alabama on January 23, 1926. The Pitts raised Dear Me and her siblings in Salem, Alabama. Dear Me attended Flint Hill School and changed her name to Ruby prior to beginning high school. Ruby was raised in a God-loving, God-fearing home and accepted Christ at an early age. She attended the Weeping Mary Baptist Church in Salem, Alabama.

Offie and Lillie Pitts moved their family to Knoxville, Tennessee in the late 1950's. Ruby worked as a domestic while in high school and married Frank Butler. They relocated north to Chicago and raised four children—Lucy, Charles, Juanita and Earl.

Ruby worked at various factories and plant jobs in Chicago, including W.F. Hall Printing Co. and retired from Goodwill Industries. Ruby was highly religious and was a member of the Greater Rock Church, was delighted to see Barack Obama elected president of the United States, and often prayed for him and his family and their safety.

Ruby loved children and made her real lifetime career caring for her own children and for the children of others. I am told by one of her

grandchildren, Ms. Wynona Redmond, that she had a tradition of giving members of her family monetary gifts that matched their age on birthdays and that she often thought and acted on behalf of others before considering herself, and that is one of the reasons she will always be "Dear Me" to all of those who knew her. We salute Mrs. Ruby Butler, Dear Me, for being an outstanding humanitarian with a big heart who was more concerned about others than for herself.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM FOR AMERICA'S SECURITY AND PROSPERITY ACT (CIR A.S.A.P.)

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, today we begin the process of transforming an immigration system which has undermined our economy and eroded America's moral standing.

For too long, Congress has sidestepped our mounting immigration challenges, but led by Congressman GUTIERREZ, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and its allies have devised bold, imaginative solutions to these problems.

In recent years, vast sums have been spent on new agents and infrastructure to secure a once porous border. But we know taller fences and stiffer penalties alone are incapable of mitigating the human toll our broken immigration system exacts every day.

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (CIR A.S.A.P.) lays out a broad blueprint for correcting the deeply flawed immigration laws and policies that are the source of so much suffering.

The bill would establish a sensible path to legalization for undocumented immigrants, end the shortage of visas that continues to divide families and direct federal authorities to adopt

a more humane approach to immigration enforcement.

It also contains key provisions of the American Dream Act that I co-authored with Congressman BERMAN, which would enable young immigrants to attend college and contribute to the social and economic fabric of this nation.

These students should not be forced to defer their dreams and abandon their ambitions simply because they lack documentation. Indeed, we cannot afford to waste our investments in these talented, motivated young people—the products of our schools and our communities.

In addition, the legislation includes important language aimed at reforming our unjust immigration detention policies based on the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act I introduced earlier this year.

On any given night, more than 30,000 immigrants go to sleep in detention centers across America. Included in their growing ranks are asylum seekers, torture survivors, children, pregnant women and the elderly. Our bill would strengthen and codify detention regulations, guaranteeing every detainee access to medical care and legal advice.

There are those who say we shouldn't pursue these sweeping changes at a time when our economy is stagnant and job losses are mounting. Yet it is precisely because American families are facing unprecedented economic hardships that addressing this issue is so critical. According to the CATO Institute, a conservative think tank, establishing a path to legalization will boost the annual income of American households by fully \$180 billion over the next ten years.

We have a moral obligation to pass the CIR A.S.A.P. Act for the asylum seeker denied due process, for the child separated from her parents and for the brave veteran whose spouse faces deportation. But we also desperately need this legislation to strengthen our economy, raise wages and ultimately ensure a brighter economic future for every American family.